GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3588
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2002
USE OF RADIO ACTIVE MATERIALS
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has given any individual or company the licence to use radio-active materials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any check and monitoring system to identify and detect the misuse of such materials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINIST OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Radioactive materials are used in about 2300 institutions all over India for medical, industrial and research application. These include 330 medical facilities (radiotherapy - 180 and nuclear medicine - 150) and about 1700 industrial institutions. Besides, 245 institutions are using unsealed radioactive material for research purposes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government have a well developed regulatory mechanism in place to enforce radiological safety provisions in various institutions handling radiation sources. Before the institutions are authorised, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) reviews their applications to ensure that they satisfy all the prerequisites for handling radioactive materials safely. These include availability of adequately trained personnel, appropriate radiation measuring and monitoring instruments, and installations planned by taking into account all aspects of radiological safety. Each institution has to designate one of their employees as Radiological Safety Officer with the approval of AERB. The functions and responsibilities of the employer and the Radiological Safety Officer are prescribed in the relevant rules. The employers are required to send periodic reports detailing the radiological safety status of the Institution. The staff of AERB carries out announced and unannounced inspections of the Institutions to identify violations, if any, of safety norms. Appropriate actions against Institutions violating the norms are initiated after reviewing the reports from the AERB inspection teams. The procedures in place are adequate to identify and detect the misuse of radioactive materials in the country and are at par with the international standards.